

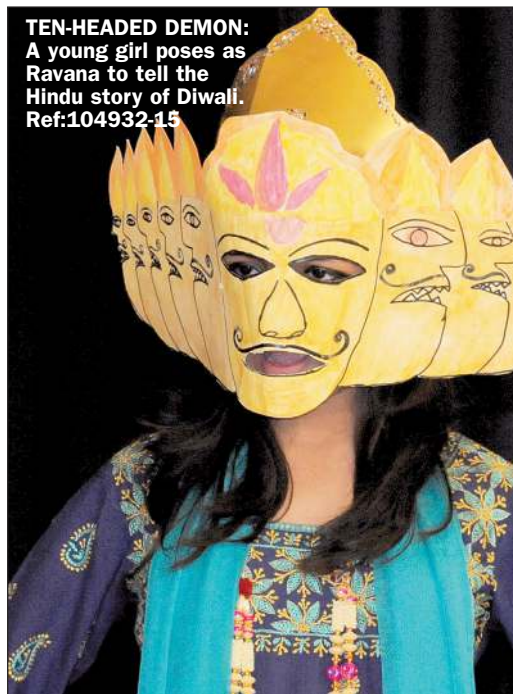


**HERE TO HELP:** A child poses as Hanuman, right, who helped Lord Rama rescue Sita from Ravana. Ref:104932-17

# A hint of Bollywood



**ALL HANDS ON NECK:** Young children had spent weeks preparing for Sunday's Diwali event. Ref:104932-26



**TEN-HEADED DEMON:** A young girl poses as Ravana to tell the Hindu story of Diwali. Ref:104932-15

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**CLASSICAL:** Indian classical dancers perform a Kathak dance at the Diwali event. Ref:104932-8



**STAR IN THE MAKING:** A young boy's energetic dancing put a smile on faces. Ref:104932-25



**DON'T TAKE ME:** Sita is abducted by Ravana. Ref:104932-16



**CELEBRATION:** MP Theresa May and deputy mayor Cllr Catherine Burnsall take part in the Hindu service with society president Mohan Malhotra and committee member Nirmal Chandolia. Ref:104932-30

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# at Hindu festival

## Maidenhead: Children act, sing and dance at Diwali event

**D**IWALI celebrations continued on Sunday for the town's Indian community. The festival was enjoyed by the Hindu Society of Maidenhead during its monthly meeting at St Piran's School in Gringer Hill.

Many families turned up to the event in the school hall to take part in the celebrations that started off with prayers by Pandit Naresh Ji.

He told the audience that Diwali for Hindus marks the anniversary of the homecoming of Lord Rama, ending 14 years in exile after defeating Ravana.

The story was then performed in a short play by children.

Other children performed traditional classical dance and Bollywood routines, choreographed by some of the

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society's committee members.

Maidenhead MP Theresa May, who annually attends the celebrations, said she was once again impressed with this year's entertainment.

"I saw some superb performances from the children," she told the audience.

"I don't know about you ladies and gentlemen, but I think we might have some of our own Bollywood stars

### Speed Read

**THE Hindu Society of Maidenhead celebrated Diwali at the weekend. The community was joined by MP Theresa May and the deputy mayor who enjoyed performances by children.**

in the making.

"It is wonderful to be able to join you in the fantastic event of Diwali."

Diwali had also become an annual celebration in the House of Commons, she said, and politicians this year had praised the Hindu community in the UK for their contributions to the country.

"We value what you all do in our community," she said.

Royal Borough deputy mayor Cllr

Catherine Bursnall, who also attended the festival, thanked members for inviting her, and added: "We are really working with the council to help you get your own place, to provide something for you on an ongoing basis, and I hope to be able to see you all next year."

The society has been fundraising for more than a year so that it can build a permanent home.

The event concluded with a feast.



**APPLAUSE:** The young performers arrive on stage to tell the story of Lord Rama and Sita, and the meaning of Diwali. Ref:104932-19

**STARS:** Three girls perform a Bollywood dance number. Ref:104932-22



**INTRIGUED:** Two-year-old Arun Nagi, watches the Diwali performance with his grandmother Meena Malhotra. Ref:104932-20



**BRIGHT BEAUTY:** A young dancer during the classical dance routine. Ref:104932-10



**A WONDERFUL TIME:** MP Theresa May, left, and Royal Borough deputy mayor Cllr Catherine Bursnall, right, with committee member Ila Gangotra. Ref:104932-13

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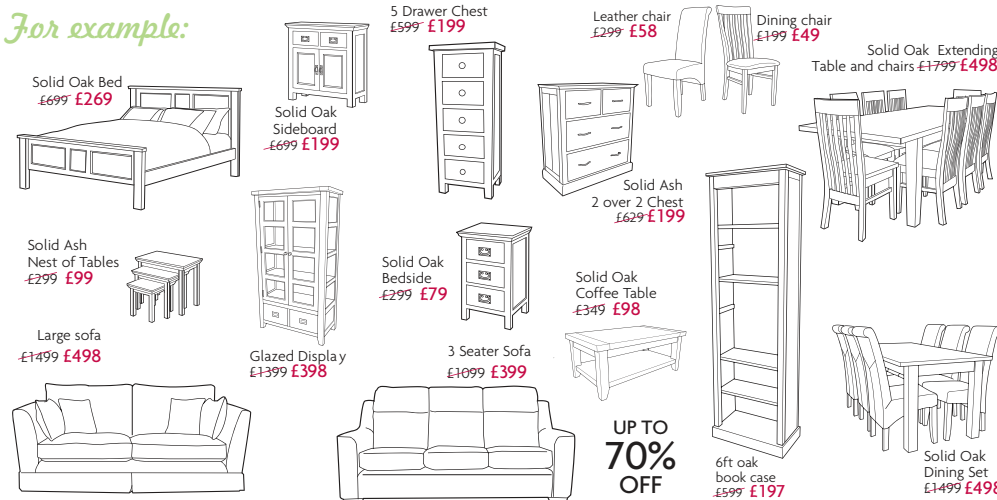
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